

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2005**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John R. Byers, Mount Vernon District
Frank A. de la Fe, Hunter Mill District
James R. Hart, Commissioner At-Large
Nancy Hopkins, Dranesville District
Ronald W. Koch, Sully District
Kenneth A. Lawrence, Providence District
Laurie Frost-Wilson, Commissioner At-Large

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Barbara J. Lippa, Executive Director, Planning Commission Office
Linda B. Rodeffer, Clerk, Planning Commission Office
Leonard Wolfenstein, Acting Chief, Planning Division, Fairfax County Department of
Transportation (FCDOT)
Wendy Jia, Transportation Planner, FCDOT

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bennett, Hunter Mill Defense League and Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming
Committee

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Chairman Frank de la Fe convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Conference Room, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

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Chairman de la Fe noted that the first item on the agenda tonight was approval of the February 23, 2005 Transportation Committee minutes.

Commissioner Byers MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 23, 2005
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES.

Commissioner Hart seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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Chairman de la Fe stated that the next agenda item was an update on the proposed Transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Leonard Wolfenstein, Acting Chief, Planning Division, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), distributed "Transportation Plan Update Progress Report" dated June 2, 2005, a copy of which is in the date file. He noted that seven public meetings had been held around the County during the first two weeks in March, with varied attendance.

Responding to a question from Chairman de la Fe, Mr. Wolfenstein said that the reason he believed some of the meetings had not been well attended was because transportation overviews and policies were too esoteric for the public in general. He pointed out that citizen interest usually peaked when a specific proposal affected their property.

Mr. Wolfenstein said that in spite of poor attendance at some of the meetings, awareness had been raised and a variety of questions had been asked on topics that included the following:

- relationship between the transportation update and the Area Plans Review process
- new trends
- transportation demand management (TDM)
- telecommuting
- approval process for right-of-way improvements
- project funding
- coordination of the region's long range transportation plan with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) six year plan and neighboring jurisdictions
- transit development
- non-motorized transportation.

He said comments had also been received via the Department's website which Wendy Jia, Transportation Planner, FCDOT, was now compiling. He explained that presentation materials available at the public meetings and upcoming activities were posted on the website.

Referring to item two on the handout, concerning the review of Transportation Plan policies, Mr. Wolfenstein explained that input had been received from the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee (NMTC) and a working draft of these policies was close to completion. He said revisions included a new transportation demand management section; a separate transit service type appendix; an update on the transit section, objective 2; editing of jargon, wordiness, and redundancy; and expanding the right-of-way requirement appendix.

Mr. Wolfenstein noted that this Committee, TAC, NMTC, and other interested parties would meet on June 28, 2005 to review draft text. He said prior to that time he would distribute a draft of the Policy Plan revisions to the Committee and that the final draft should be completed in July or early August and made available to the public prior to the second round of public meetings scheduled in September.

Mr. Wolfenstein pointed out that item three on the handout indicated that workshops on travel demand forecasting, to be held on July 16 and 20 at the Government Center, would be advertised

on Channel 16, the project website, an Office of Public Affairs news release, and postcards to homeowners' associations and civic associations.

Responding to a question from Chairman de la Fe, Mr. Wolfenstein said that the workshops would address methodology, not policies.

Mr. Wolfenstein noted that in late September or early October, after a review of public comments had been made and after the June 28 meeting had been held, a post public meeting review would take place with another joint session of the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee, TAC, and NMTC. Chairman de la Fe recommended that after the June 28 meeting had been held, a draft of the proposed revisions be posted to the website as soon as possible.

In response to questions from Commissioners Byers and Lawrence about the federal government's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) proposal, which would increase the number of employees at Ft. Belvoir, Mr. Wolfenstein said because the model had been run before the BRAC report had been issued, a hybrid model or a variance of the model would be necessary to test the impact the proposals would have on the County's transportation plan. Chairman de la Fe pointed out that a final decision on base closures and realignments had not yet been made.

Responding to another question from Commissioner Lawrence, Mr. Wolfenstein said that the scope of the model would have to be expanded with the consultant, Cambridge Systematics, and that two or three more models may have to be run.

Commissioner Lawrence commented that he was particularly interested in the TDM section because one of the problems he had encountered when working with the existing Policy Plan was that in negotiations for large residential projects, the trip reduction goal was much too meager. He said when he tried to get bigger goals, he was told that the County policy was based on a percentage. Mr. Wolfenstein said that this section would be expanded to include residential development, but in most cases there would not be specific target numbers. Chairman de la Fe pointed out that trip reduction for the Reston Town Center had been significantly higher than anticipated and said he supported having a separate section for TDM.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Wilson, Chairman de la Fe said that trip reduction was determined by establishing a baseline and using industry standards.

Commissioner Lawrence noted that Cambridge Systematics recommended addressing bottlenecks first so variability and any increase over the baseline could be reduced at the same time. He suggested that efforts be focused on bottlenecks around development where TDM strategies could be practiced with some hope of success to maximize the leverage instead of looking at mitigation elements in isolation. Mr. Wolfenstein said if Commissioner Lawrence was speaking of a specific policy to articulate that concept explicitly, it was probably in the Policy Plan grouped with other policies. Commissioner Lawrence then requested that Commissioners be given examples of congested areas with employment and residential mixed development to

demonstrate to their Supervisors how resources could be allocated in areas where TDM strategies could be used.

Mr. Wolfenstein noted that public meetings, scheduled between September 12-23, 2005, would be publicized throughout August with public hearing target dates of November 2 for the Planning Commission and December 5 for Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Wilson said that in addition to disseminating information about these meetings to homeowners' and civic associations, informational leaflets could be made available at Back to School nights. Chairman de la Fe noted that the September dates would probably conflict with Back to School nights, but that probably could not be avoided.

Chairman de la Fe requested that all comments/input received from citizens and how they were addressed be available at the June 28, 2005 meeting in a matrix format.

Chairman de la Fe asked Mr. Wolfenstein if the proposed Tri-County Parkway would remain in the Plan. Mr. Wolfenstein suggesting letting this issue play out through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tri-County Parkway Location study which would contain a more detailed modeling in this vicinity than the Plan update process.

Commissioner Koch said he thought it would be premature to suggest that the Parkway be taken off the Comprehensive Plan before the EIS analysis had been completed.

In response to a question from Commissioner Koch, Chairman de la Fe said questions had been raised about the need for the Parkway beyond a certain point. Commissioner Koch reiterated his position that the EIS process would be circumvented if it was taken off the Plan at this time. Mr. Wolfenstein pointed out that this issue would have to be addressed in the Plan update. Chairman de la Fe said this could wait until the EIS analysis had been completed, but that questions had been raised about the extent and the cost of the parkway and whether the additional cost was economically advisable when improvements could be made to Route 28 and the Fairfax County Parkway with the money saved. Mr. Wolfenstein pointed out that funds were not available for a Parkway at this time.

Responding to a question from Chairman de la Fe, Mr. Wolfenstein said one revision necessary in the Comprehensive Plan was to show four rail stations in the Tysons Corner area instead of three. In response to another question from Chairman de la Fe, Mr. Wolfenstein suggested making no changes to the road network schedule for this area currently shown in the Plan until the Tysons Corner study had been completed.

Bruce Bennett, Hunter Mill Defense League and Hunter Mill Road Traffic Calming Committee, noted that the turnout for the public meeting held in Reston had been good because that community was active. He suggested contacting the people who had submitted comments to encourage participation of their community members in the upcoming process.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.
Frank de la Fe, Chairman

For a verbatim record of this meeting, reference may be made to the audio recording which can be found in the Fairfax County, Virginia Planning Commission Office.

Minutes by: Linda B. Rodeffer

Approved on: October 26, 2005

Linda B. Rodeffer, Clerk
Fairfax County Planning Commission